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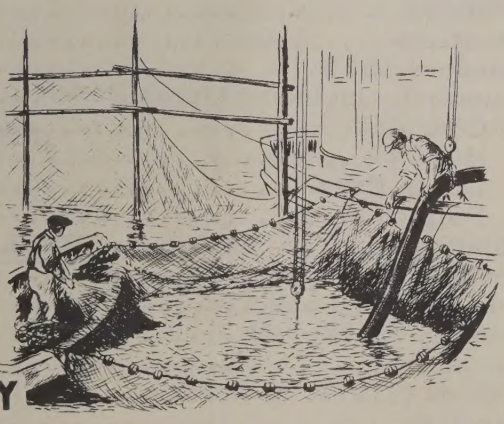
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

MARKETS



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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 ii

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 ii

Washington 25, D. C. January, 1958

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

January - March 1958

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY	Modest decline, slight levelling off, "a breathing spell".
FOOD	Supplies still plentiful - active demand.
FISHERY PRODUCTION	Seasonally low during the first quarter.
COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS	Total holdings about the same as last year, but wide variations in several species.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH	Steady-to-firm for most species.
MARKETS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	Fish oils firm, meal and solubles steady.
IMPORTS	Continue high for groundfish fillets and blocks, tuna, fresh-water species, sardines, shrimp and spiny lobsters.
EXPORTS	Declining slightly for fish oils, and sharply for sardines.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

OUTLOOK

Slight declines in the high level of economic activity for many segments of the economy began to show up during the previous quarter. Indications are that the dip will continue until about the middle of 1958.

PERSONAL INCOME - During November, personal income - the sum total of all income flowing to individuals, whether earned in current production or not - was at an annual rate of $345.5 billion, about $1.5 billion below the August-September rates.

COST OF LIVING - Again new heights were reached in November, when the cost of living index went to 121.6 (1947 - 49 = 100).

AGRICULTURE - Output of farm products in 1958 could equal or exceed that of 1957. Prices and incomes to farmers in 1958 are expected to be similar to 1957. Total per capita meat consumption is estimated to be 158 pounds, compared with 159 pounds in 1957.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - Industrial production continued to decline in November. The seasonally adjusted index was 139 of the 1947 - 49 average, compared with a figure of 141 for October of 1957 and 146 for November of 1956.

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Construction activity remained at record levels. Contracts, which usually decline in the fall, continued in October at the September level.

EMPLOYMENT - Employment in durable goods industries and in non-manufacturing lines declined further in November. Total unemployment showed a larger increase than usual for November of 1957, and at 3.2 million was about 500,000 higher than year earlier. Unemployment will probably continue to rise during first part of 1958.

THE FOOD SITUATION

FOOD OUTLOOK

The supplies of principal food products will continue very high and farm output could exceed record outturn.

MEATS

Total meat supplies in 1958 might be about same as 1957, with only slight drop - one pound - in estimated per capita consumption. Beef supplies in first quarter will probably decline. Number of cattle on farms in first part of 1958 will be about 2 million below the early 1957 figure. Pork production in spring of 1958 will be up with pig crops expected to be 7 percent higher than comparable 1957 period. Lamb supplies will be about the same in early 1958 as in last quarter of 1957.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Turkey supplies for 1958 could be down 5 - 10 percent from record production of 80.5 million in 1957. Egg output might decline slightly, but come close to the record 61 billion eggs produced in 1957.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Estimates are that 1958 milk production will increase slightly over 1957, with consumer demand for dairy products holding to the high level of 1957.

VEGETABLES

Supplies of fresh vegetables for the market and for processing are expected to be smaller than last year, but still high. Canned vegetable supplies, during the first half of 1958 are expected to be slightly below the large supplies of last season, but greater than the 10 year average. Frozen vegetables are expected to continue in record supply.

FATS AND OILS

A continued strong demand of food fats and oils is expected in 1958. Supplies for export will be somewhat larger than last year. An increased production of all major food fats except cottonseed oil is in prospect. Per capita use of butter, margarine, lard and shortening during 1958 will average about the same as that in 1957.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

During 1957, The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, together with other agencies of the Federal Government, engaged in a series of programs designed to stimulate the consumption of fishery products. This cooperative endeavor between Government and industry has been fruitful in most respects, and the Bureau is prepared to continue its efforts during 1958.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS on December 1, 1957 were about the same as those on the same date in 1956. However, there were wide variations in total holdings of individual species.

PRODUCTION of most fisheries will be at the low seasonal levels during the first quarter of 1958.

WHITING, in Massachusetts, is in extremely heavy supply. During the first ten months of 1957, landings increased 35 million pounds over the same 1956 period.

OCEAN PERCH AND HADDOCK catch was down during ten months of 1957. Ocean perch declined nearly 21 million pounds, and haddock was down about 9 million pounds.

OYSTERS will be in peak season, but supplies will be light-to-moderate with demand exceeding supplies.

FISH STICK PRODUCTION is up slightly, and is expected to remain steady during early 1958. Blocks are in tight supply. A substantial increase in the production of fish portions during 1957 is major reason.

CALIFORNIA CANNED SARDINE outlook continues poor with extremely low production and processes unable to satisfy total export demand. Prices will continue high with short supplies until the new season begins in August.

MENHADEN production showed the greatest decline of the ten month 1957 catch. Through October, 1.6 billion pounds were caught, compared with 1.9 billion pounds during the same period in 1956.

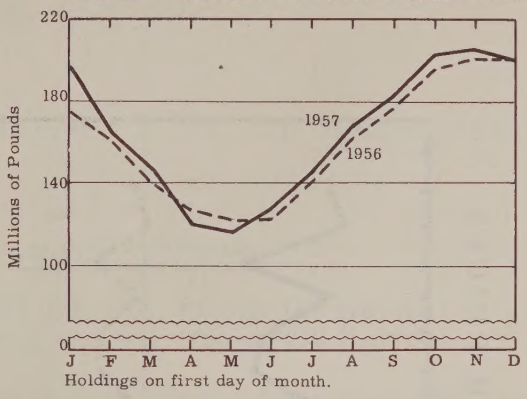
Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

December 1

1957.....200,619,000 Lbs.

1956.....200,403,000 Lbs.

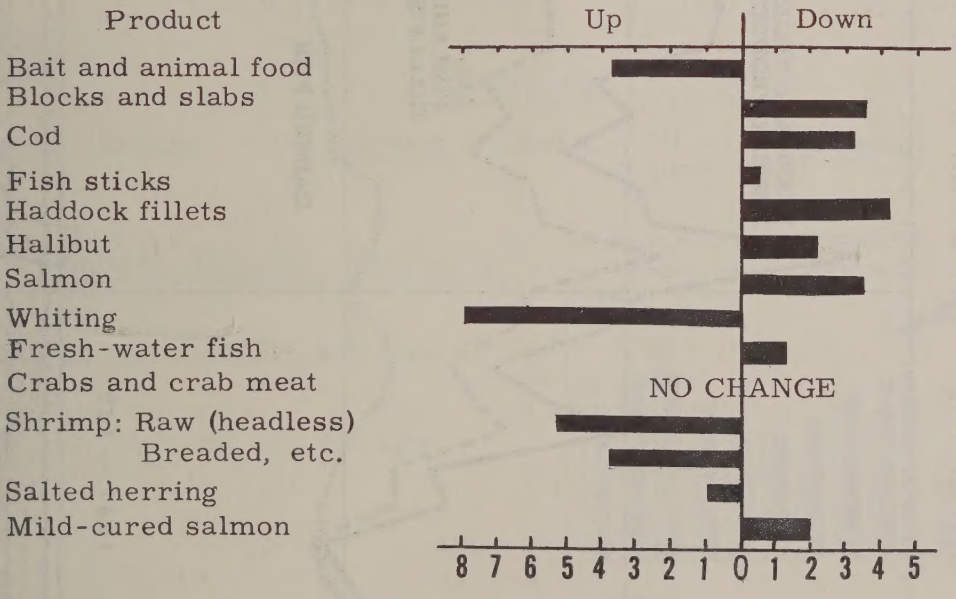
CHART 1 - FISHERY PRODUCTS IN COLD STORAGE



The December 1 cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish were only slightly higher than those of the same date last year. However, the 1957 figure includes 10.8 million pounds of bait and animal food, compared with 7.2 million pounds in 1956. Major changes in species holdings are indicated in the accompanying chart, in millions of pounds:

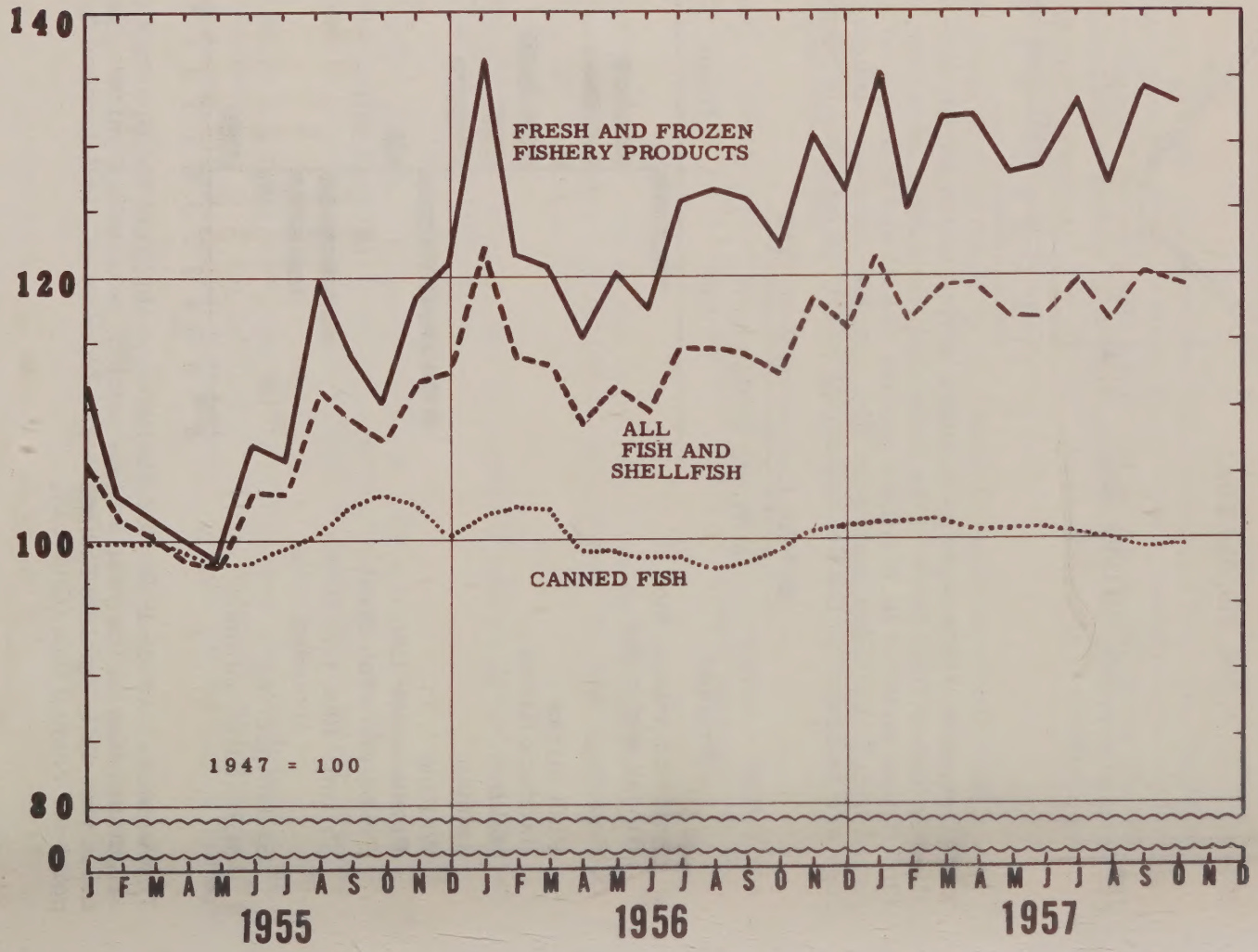
1957 As Compared With 1956

(Millions of Pounds)



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish for November 1957, as compared with the year earlier period, was up 2.8 points. The index was up 5.2 points for fresh and frozen fish, and dropped 0.6 of a point for canned fish (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES


140
120
100
80
0
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
1947 = 100
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1955
1956
1957

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Domestic Pack, January - October

1957 ..... 618, 005 Std. Cases (48 Halves)
1956 ..... 673, 555 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

Production of canned anchovies from January through October 1957 was poor, about 8 percent less than during the same period in 1956. Supplies will be light for the first quarter unless fishing picks up.

Prices - will probably rise slightly.

FISH STICKS

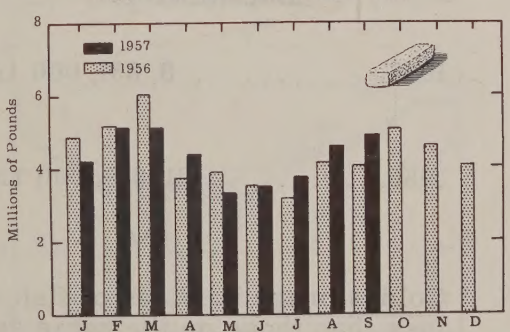
Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Production, January - September

1957..... 39, 395, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 38, 895, 000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - FISH STICK PRODUCTION



Production of fish sticks through September was 39.4 million pounds, an increase of slightly more than 1 percent compared with the production during the same period in 1956. There has been a substantial increase in the production of fish portions this year. As a result, blocks are in short supply (Chart 3).

Cold-Storage Holdings

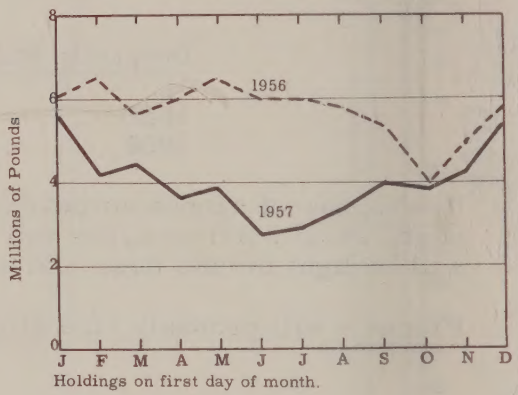
Fish Sticks

December 1

1957..... 5, 335, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 5, 811, 000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

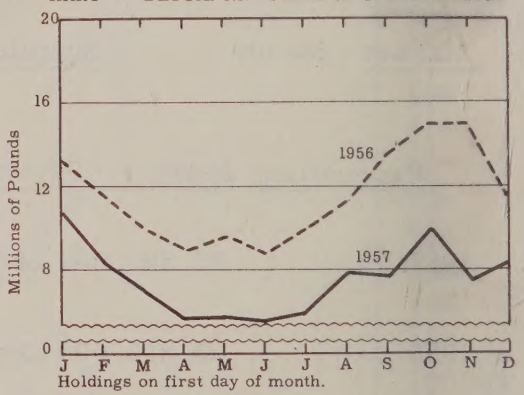
Blocks and Slabs

December 1

1957..... 8, 331, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 11, 819, 000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks on December 1 were 8.2 percent less than those on the same date in 1956 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold-storage decreased about 30 percent from December 1, 1956 (Chart 5).

Prices, which have already tended upward, are expected to go slightly higher.

FLOUNDERS AND SOLE

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

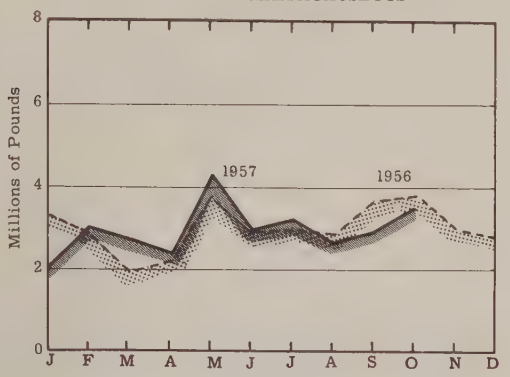
Massachusetts Landings

(January - October)

1957..... 29,202,000 Lbs.

1956..... 27,906,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings - Through October 1957, the landings of flounders and sole in Massachusetts were 1.3 million pounds more than those during first ten months of 1956. Production during the first quarter will be at the seasonal low. Market will remain firm (Chart 6).

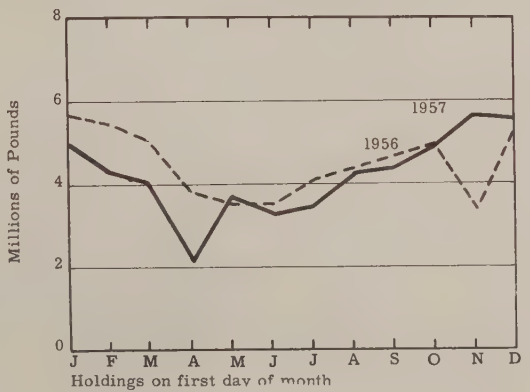
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 5,606,000 Lbs.

1956..... 5,231,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings on December 1 were 7.2 percent higher than those on the same date in 1956 (Chart 7).

FLOUNDERS AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - September

(Fillets)

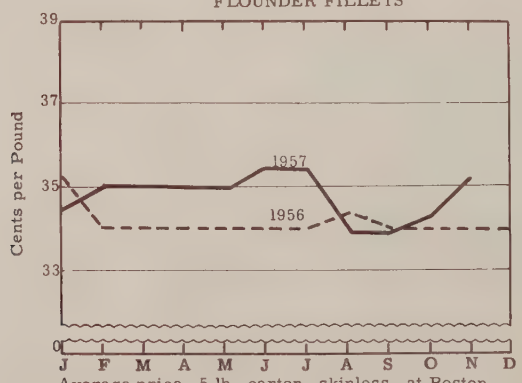
1957.....10,403,000 Lbs.

1956..... 9,765,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounders and sole through the first nine months of 1957 were about 7 percent more than those through the same period of 1956. Most of such imports are from Canada, and during September, 1,220,000 pounds of these fillets were imported, of which 1,150,000 pounds were from Canada.

Prices, which began to rise slightly during the third quarter, will tend to level off during the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

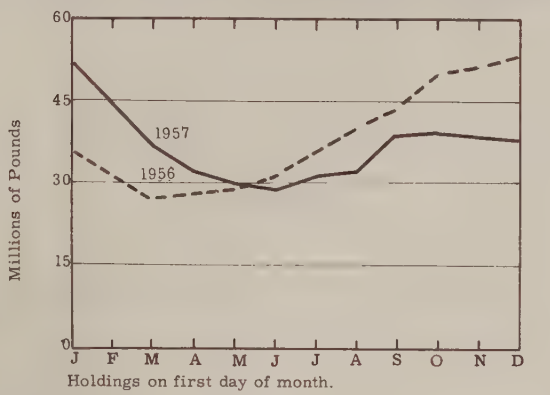
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 38,384,000 Lbs.

1956..... 52,800,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



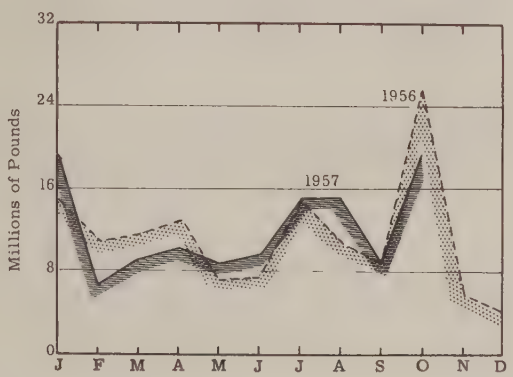
Cold-storage holdings on December 1 were approximately 27 percent lower than those of a year earlier. Changes in fillet holdings, by species, are shown in the tables on the succeeding pages (Chart 9).

Imports, January - October

1957..... 124,335,000 Lbs.

1956..... 128,714,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS



Imports - During October 1957, imports of groundfish fillets amounted to 19.1 million pounds. This represented a decrease of 26 percent or 6.6 million pounds from imports during the same month in 1956. Total imports during the first ten months of 1957 were down about 4.4 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. Of the total imports of groundfish fillets during the first ten months of 1957, Canada supplied approximately 77 percent (Chart 10).

COD FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

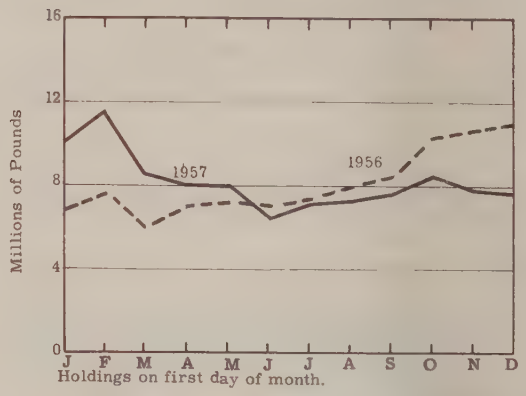
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 7,706,000 Lbs.

1956.....10,884,000 Lbs.

CHART 11 - COD FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on December 1 were down 29 percent from those on the same date in 1956. Canadian holdings of cod fillets on December 1 totaled only 3,828,000 pounds compared with 8,525,000 pounds a year earlier. This represented a reduction of 55 percent.

Landings of cod during the first quarter 1958 in New England will increase slightly over last quarter 1957.

Imports, July - September

1957.....31,842,000 Lbs.

1956.....31,929,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets during first three quarters of 1957 were about the same as those in the corresponding period in 1956. Canada supplied the major portion of these imports.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 7,206,000 Lbs.

1956..... 11,554,000 Lbs.

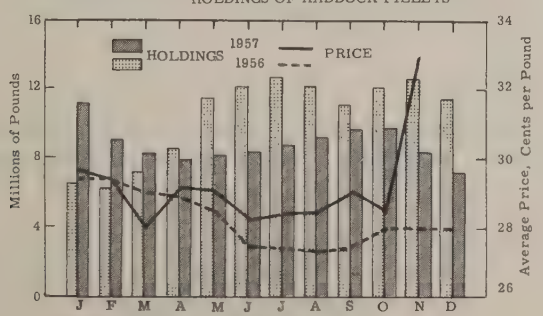
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on December 1 showed a decline of approximately 38 percent from those on the corresponding date in 1956 (Chart 12). Canadian holdings on December 1 totaled 50 percent less than on December 1, 1956.

Production during the first quarter of 1958 will increase, especially during the last two months.

Imports of haddock fillets during January - September 1957 totaled 23.0 million pounds, a reduction of 11 percent from the 25.9 million pounds which entered the United States during the same period in 1956.

Prices, which had not fluctuated too greatly during the first three quarters of 1956, rose to 33 cents per pound in November. With reduced holdings, prices should remain firm during the first quarter.

CHART 12 - WHOLESALE PRICES AND COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First day of Month.
Price - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

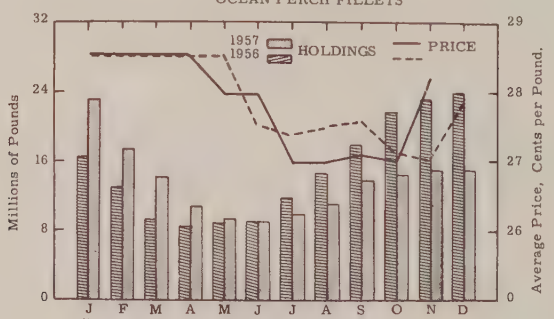
December 1

1957.....15,020,000 Lbs.

1956.....23,934,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch on December 1 were approximately 37 percent below those on the same date a year earlier. Holdings usually decline sharply during the first quarter (Chart 13).

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston.

Prices, which took a rise in November should continue to rise only slightly during the first part of the quarter and then remain fairly steady (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - September

1957.....11,009,000 Lbs.

1956.....13,763,000 Lbs.

Imports of ocean perch through September of 1957 were down almost 20 percent from the similar period last year. More than 66 percent of the total ocean perch imports was supplied by Canada. Iceland is the second largest exporter of this species to the United States.

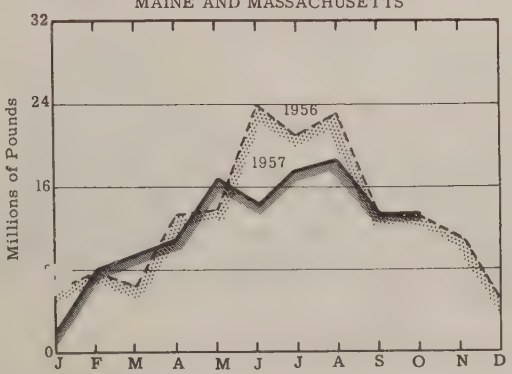
Landings of ocean perch in the New England area during the first ten months of 1957 decreased by about 10 percent from the landings in the same period a year earlier. Total catch of ocean perch for 1957 will fall short of that for 1956. Landings, during the first quarter, usually decline sharply (Chart 14).

Landings, January - October

1957.....122,716,000 Lbs.

1956.....136,961,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



POLLOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

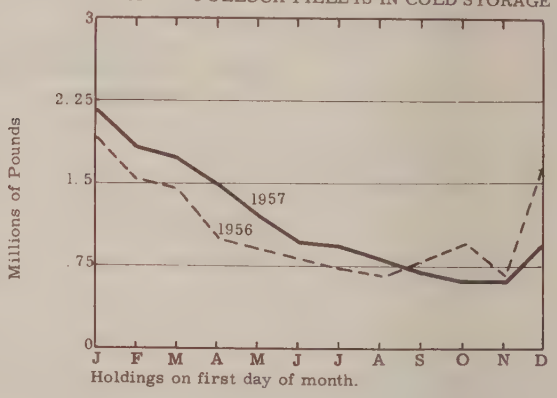
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....1,015,000 Lbs.

1956.....1,676,000 Lbs.

CHART 15 - POLLOCK FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of pollock fillets on December 1 were down almost 40 percent below those on December 1, 1956. Heaviest holdings will appear at beginning of first quarter and then gradually taper off (Chart 15).

Prices should continue steady for most of the quarter.

HALIBUT

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings of halibut on the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada during the 1957 season totaled 61.5 million pounds. This is a decrease of about 7.0 percent, or 4.3 million pounds from total 1956 landings of halibut. The halibut fishing season closed for the last of the areas on October 16.

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

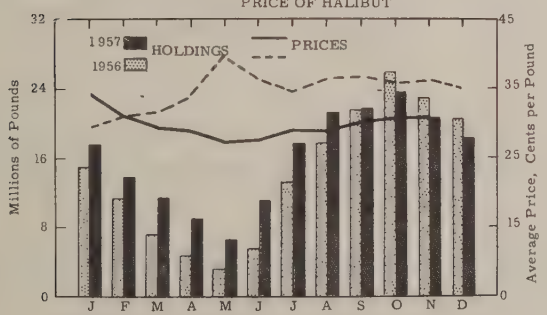
1957.....18,299,000 Lbs.

1956.....20,361,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut, after reaching the highest level of the year in October, began to decline and on December 1 they were about 10 percent below those on the same date last year (Chart 16).

Prices, which began slight rise in last quarter 1957, will become firm especially during latter part of the first quarter (Chart 16).

CHART 16 COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICE OF HALIBUT

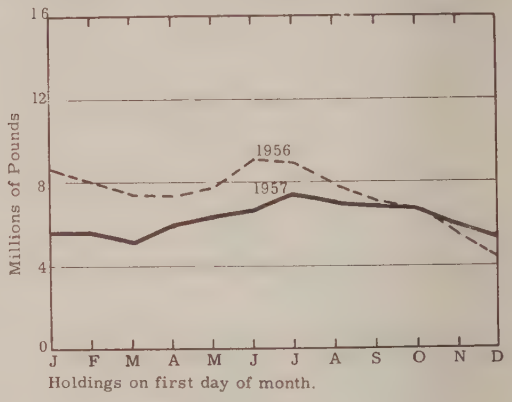


Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

HERRING, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

CHART 17 - SALTED HERRING IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 5,439,000 Lbs.

1956..... 4,541,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of salted sea herring on December 1 were about 20 percent higher than on the same date last year. Stocks began to decline during the last quarter, and will continue to do so in the first quarter, 1958 (Chart 17).

Prices are expected to continue steady during the next three months.

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Active Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings of mackerel will be light on the North Atlantic Coast during the first quarter, and spanish mackerel landings will be good on the South Atlantic Coast.

Cold-storage holdings on December 1 amounted to 1,544,000 pounds, which about equaled those on the same date in 1956.

Prices should remain firm during the first quarter 1958.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Dull **Supplies** - Liberal **Demand** - Light

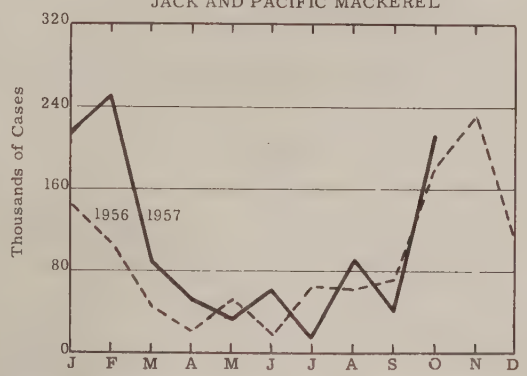
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - October

1957.....1,060,000 Std. Cases

1956.....777,000 Std. Cases

CHART 18 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



Pack of canned mackerel during the first ten months of 1957 was approximately 36 percent higher than that during the same period in 1956. Although the fourth quarter pack is normally high, the first quarter of 1958 should see continued high packs, but not reaching the potential because of poor demand (Chart 18).

Prices continue to be low and will remain low with the anticipated good production.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady **Supplies** - Moderate **Demand** - Moderate

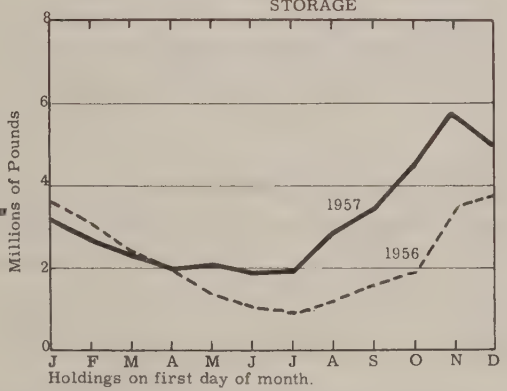
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....5,046,000 Lbs.

1956.....3,746,000 Lbs.

CHART 19 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on December 1 were higher than those of last year on the same date by approximately 35 percent (Chart 19).

Landings of sablefish were again curtailed this past quarter by a regulation adopted in 1956 which, as a conservation measure, suspends all sablefishing during the last two months of 1957. Supplies will get shorter with prices remaining steady.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

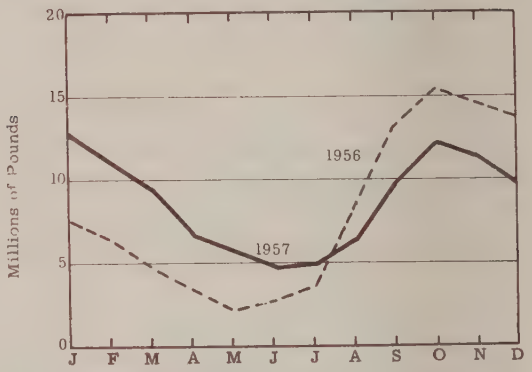
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957..... 9,968,000 Lbs.

1956.....13,606,000 Lbs.

CHART 20- SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on December 1 were down 27 percent below the year earlier holdings. Kings comprised 3.9 million pounds, and silvers totaled 3.0 million pounds of the holdings on December 1 (Chart 20).

Imports, January - September

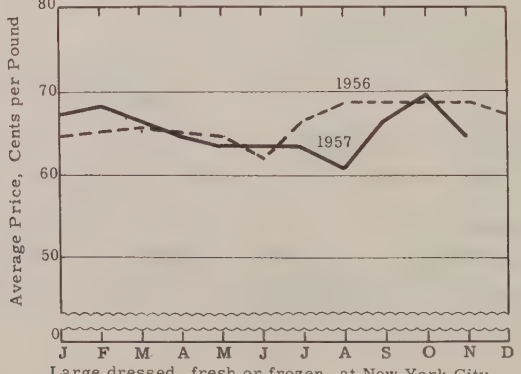
1957..... 9,966,000 Lbs.

1956..... 8,201,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon through September 1957 were about 22 percent higher than those in a similar period in 1956. Canada supplied 99 percent of such imports during this period. During 1956 the total amounted to 12,940,000 pounds.

Prices, which reached a peak in October began to drop during the last part of 1957, but remain high. Indications are that these high prices will continue during the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, fresh or frozen, at New York City.

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

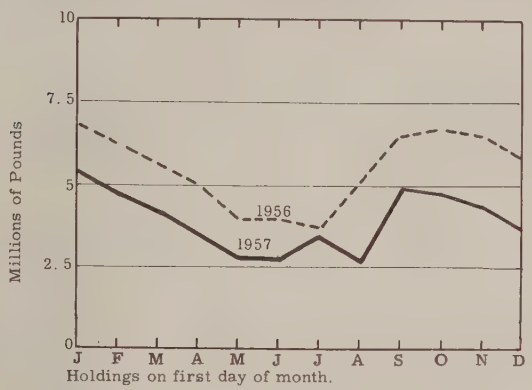
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....3,772,000 Lbs.

1956.....5,751,000 Lbs.

CHART 22- MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings on December 1 were approximately 34 percent lower than those on the same date in 1956 (Chart 22).

Production - The total Pacific pack of this specialty was considerably below that of 1956. The California pack, particularly, was the smallest amount for that state in a long time.

Prices - There is a scarcity of mild-cured salmon for smoking, which should advance the prices during the first quarter of 1958.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Exceeds Supply

Season Pack

(Standard Cases)

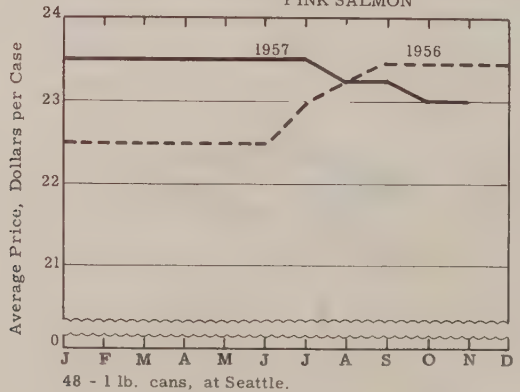
	Alaska	Pacific Coast States
1957	2,449,000	742,000
1956	2,980,000	482,000

Pack - Revised figures for the Alaska pack show the 1957 season pack more than 500,000 cases less than a year earlier. However, the 1957 pack was slightly better than that of 1955 which was the poorest on record. The Pacific Coast States pack was up 54 percent above that for 1956.

Imports - Canned salmon imported from Canada and Japan during the first nine months of 1957 totaled 16,343,000 pounds compared with 12,711,000 pounds during the first nine months of 1956. Japan supplied 15,862,000 pounds, and Canada supplied 481,000 pounds of the canned salmon imported during the first three quarters of 1957. Indications are that imports could decrease during the first quarter of 1958.

Wholesale prices for canned salmon will remain high, and continue firm because of the short supplies during the first quarter 1958 (Chart 23).

CHART 23 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 - 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

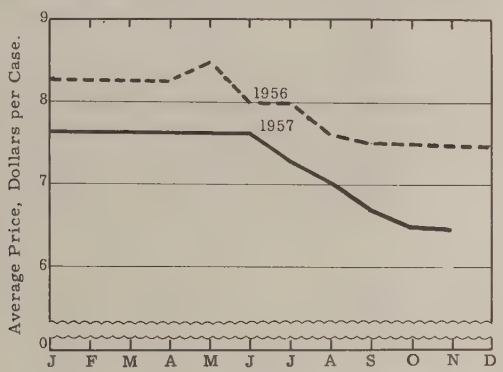
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - Final pack figures for Maine sardines amounted to 2,117,000 cases. This was approximately 5 percent less than the 1956 pack, which amounted to 2,231,000. Packing operations were curtailed sharply during the last four months of the season due to poor market conditions.

Prices for Maine sardines have continued to drop, and during November, they reached the lowest level price since July of 1954. Some strengthening of the market is expected during the first quarter with firming of prices (Chart 24).

CHART 24 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Pack - The 1957 pack for California sardines was one of the lowest on record largely because of an extended fleet tie-up. Because of shortages, most canners will hold stocks for domestic markets, which will seriously affect the canned sardine export market. Exports through September 1957 were 61 percent below those during the same period in 1956. Prices will be high with short supply until the new season starts in August.

Exports, January - September

1957.....10,200,000 Lbs.

1956.....26,391,000 Lbs

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - September

1957..... 3, 325, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 465, 000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines canned not-in-oil during the first nine months of 1957 exceeded those for the same period for 1956 by almost three million pounds, as shown in the above table. The total imports during the whole of 1956 only amounted to 650, 000 pounds. Imports will continue high.

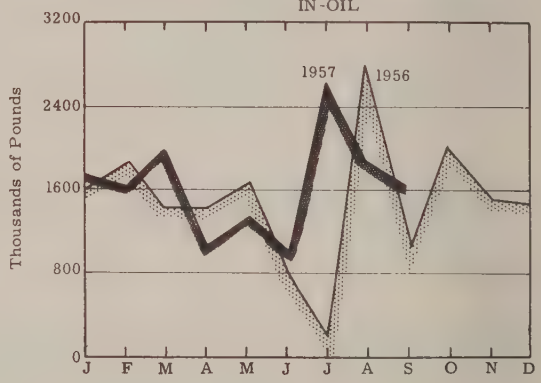
Imports of Sardines-in-Oil

January - September

1957..... 15, 003, 000 Lbs.

1956..... 13, 498, 000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



Imports of sardines canned-in-oil through September 1957, were approximately 11 percent higher than for the same period in 1956. The first quarter 1958 should see continued high imports of these sardines together with prices remaining steady and high (Chart 25).

SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

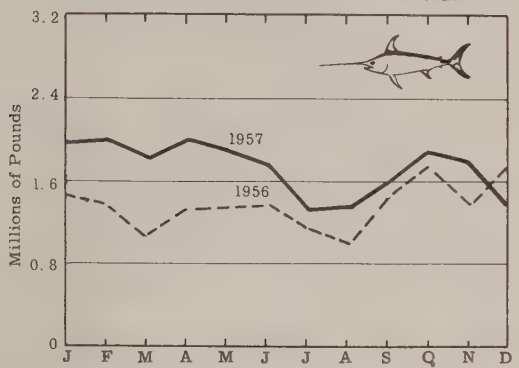
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....1,436,000 Lbs.

1956.....1,731,000 Lbs.

CHART 26- SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE

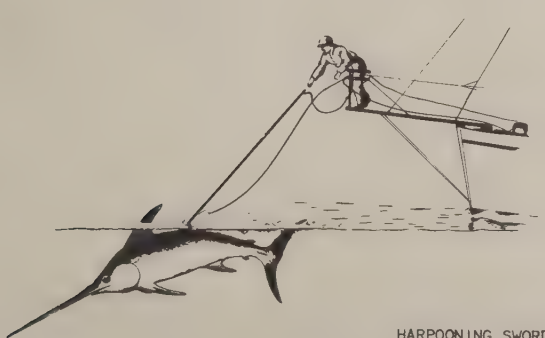


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on December 1 were approximately 17 percent lower than those of a year earlier. (Chart 26).

Imports of swordfish through September 1957 totaled 14.9 million pounds, compared with imports of 15.5 million pounds, during the same period in 1956. Of the total imported during 1957, swordfish fillets comprised 8.8 million pounds.

Prices should continue to remain firm throughout the first quarter of 1958.



HARPOONING SWORDFISH

TUNA, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Active

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen Tuna, Southern California

January - December

(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1957	45,690	140,448	186,138
1956	42,693	160,025	202,718

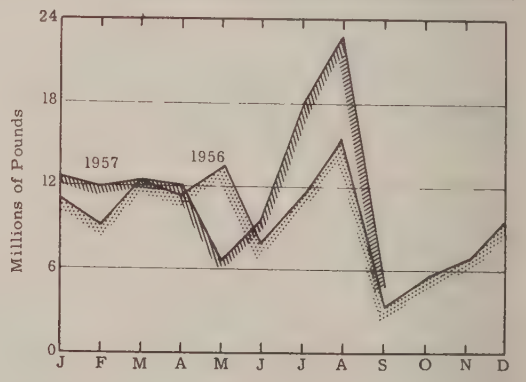
Cannery receipts - Receipts of tuna, fresh and frozen at canneries through December 1957 were about 8 percent below those a year earlier, with imported tuna representing almost 25 percent of total receipts.

Imports, Frozen Tuna

January - September

1957	110,989,000 Lbs.
1956	98,181,000 Lbs.

CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports - Frozen tuna imports at all United States ports during the first nine months of 1957 increased by 13 percent above those for the same period in 1956 and should continue steady during the first quarter 1958 (Chart 27).

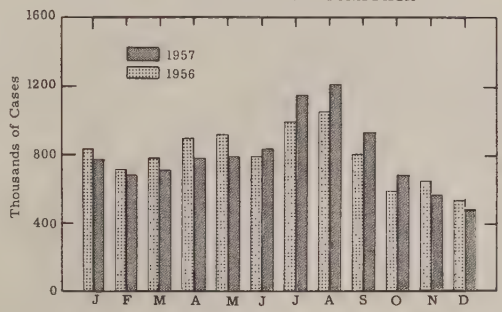
California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - December

1957..... 9,435,000 Std. Cases

1956..... 9,617,000 Std. Cases

CHART 28- CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



Pack - The total California pack of canned tuna for 1957 was down almost 2 percent below that of 1956. Inventories are reported to be about the same for 1956. Although the pack has been poor during the last quarter it should pick up during January and February and make up for the loss which occurred during the recent strike (Chart 28).

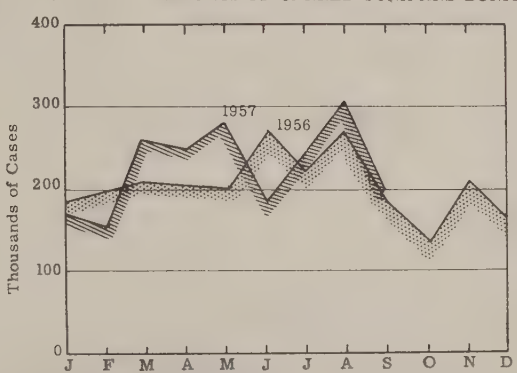
Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonita

January - September

1957..... 2,079,000 Std. Cases

1956..... 1,943,000 Std. Cases

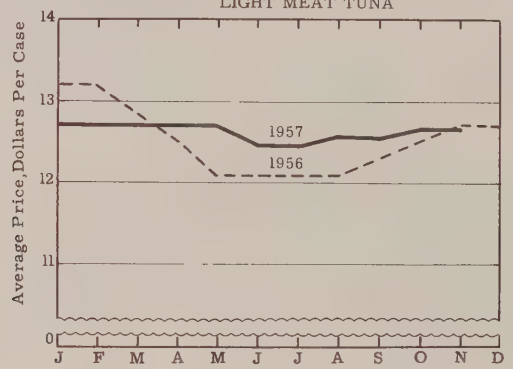
CHART 29- IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



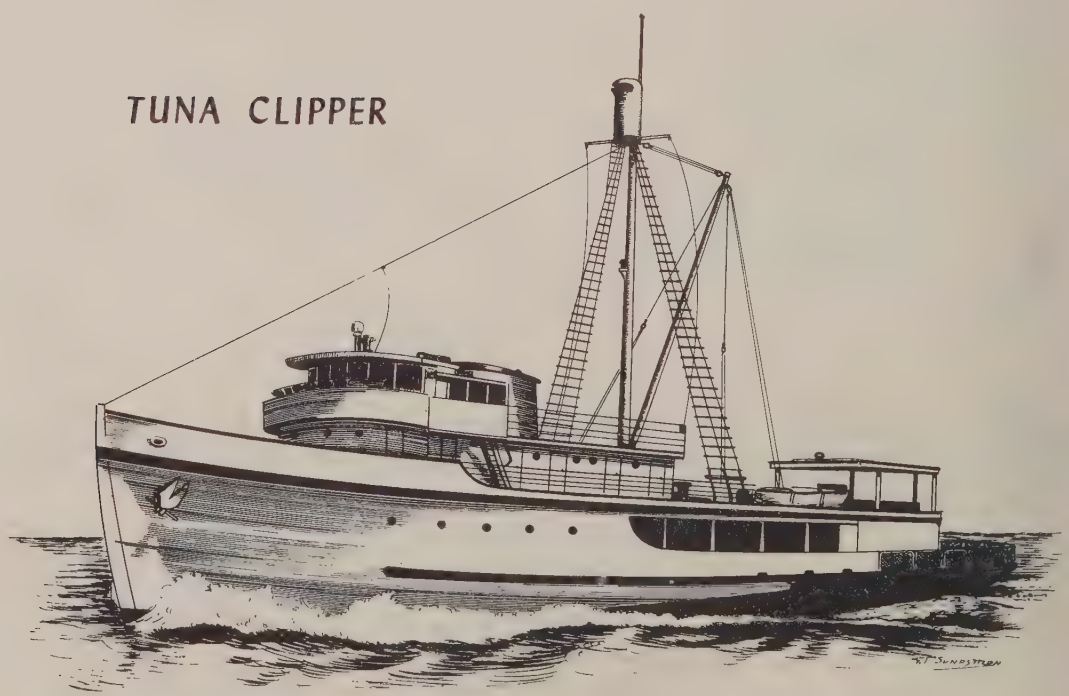
Imports - Through September 1957, imports of canned tuna and bonita were approximately 7 percent higher than during the same period a year earlier (Chart 29).

Wholesale prices - Prices which have risen slightly during the fourth quarter of 1957 will probably go still higher during the first quarter 1958. However, imports could have a leveling influence which could keep prices firm and steady (Chart 30).

CHART 30 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



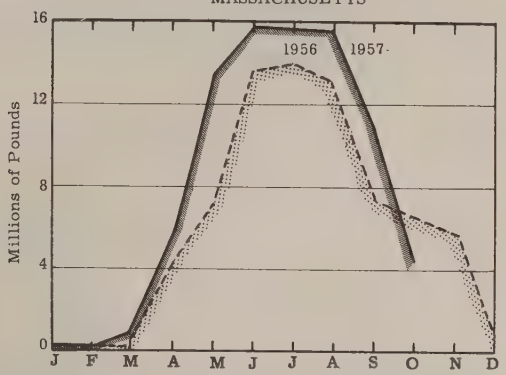
Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.



WHITING

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

CHART 31 - LANDINGS OF WHITING
MASSACHUSETTS



Landings, January - October

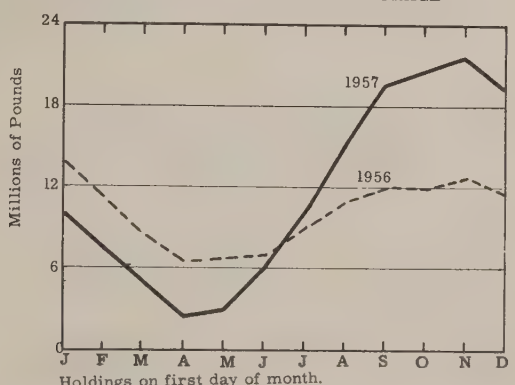
(Massachusetts)

1957.....61,843,000 Lbs.

1956.....45,490,000 Lbs.

Landings - During the first ten months of 1957 landings of whiting in Massachusetts were about 36 percent higher than those in the similar period in 1956. Production had dropped off during the fourth quarter and will continue to be very low during the first quarter of 1958. The oversupply has caused some marketing problems (Chart 31).

CHART 32 WHITING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....19,302,000 Lbs.

1956.....11,430,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of whiting on December 1 were up substantially from the stocks a year earlier, about 69 percent. The beginning of the Lenten Season in February will cause a reduction of some of these stocks, but prices should remain steady during the first quarter (Chart 32).

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

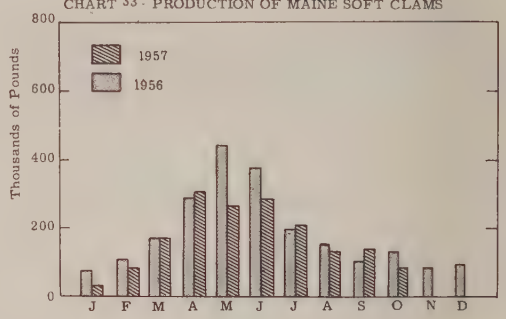
Production, January - September

(Maine Soft Clams)

1957.....1,678,000 Lbs.

1956.....1,915,000 Lbs.

CHART 33 - PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Production - The soft clam production in Maine continues to decline, and figures representing the first nine months of 1957 show a decrease of 12 percent from the production through a similar period in 1956 (Chart 33).

Prices will remain firm during the first quarter of 1958.

SURF CLAMS

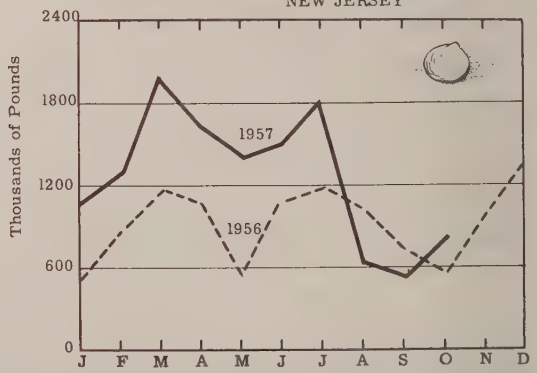
New Jersey Landings

January - October

1957.....12,898,000 Lbs.

1956..... 8,759,000 Lbs.

CHART 34 - LANDINGS OF SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY



Production - Production of surf clams in New Jersey during the first ten months of 1957 increased substantially over that of the same period 1956, approximately 47 percent. Rough water and inclement weather conditions during the first quarter will result in decreased landings (Chart 34).

Prices will remain firm and steady during the first three months of 1958.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts should be better during the first quarter of 1958 than that during the January - March period in 1957. On the Pacific Coast, Dungeness crab production continues high.

Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....2,076,000 Lbs.

1956.....2,075,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on December 1 were about the same as those a year earlier. Again, most of these holdings consisted of dungeness and king crabs, and crab meat located on the Pacific Coast.

Prices, to fisherman, for Atlantic and Gulf Coast crabs should be up a little during the first quarter. Because of the large production of dungeness crabs, however, prices might drop quite low on the Pacific Coast.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Season Pack

1957.....13,473 Std. Cases

1956.....10,359 Std. Cases

Pack - The canned crab meat pack, in the Gulf States, for the 1957 season was up approximately 30 percent over that for the 1956 season, but fell far below the 1955 season pack. No pack figures are available for the Pacific States and Alaska.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - September

1957.....4,976,000 Lbs.

1956.....4,940,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat through September of 1957 are only slightly higher than those through the same period in 1956. The imports consist of king crab and are primarily from Japan.

Prices for domestically produced canned crab meat are expected to be steady during the first three months of 1958.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

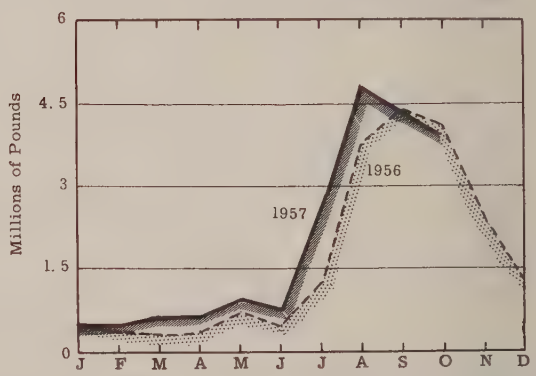
Maine Landings

January - October

1957.....20,277,000 Lbs.

1956.....16,857,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings – Lobster landings in Maine through October of 1957 increased by 20 percent above those of the year earlier period. At the end of October landings were slightly above the 1955 season, which was a record year. Landings of lobster are seasonally lowest in the first quarter (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

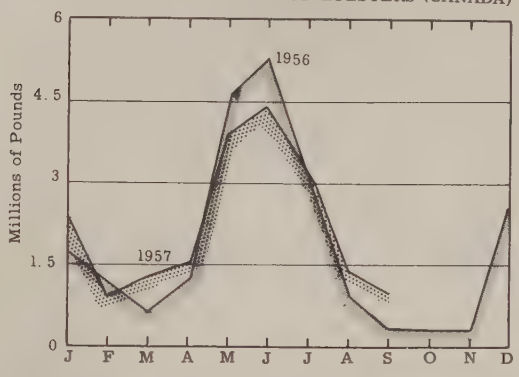
Imports from Canada

January - September

1957.....19,474,000 Lbs.

1956.....19,554,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada through September of 1957 were only slightly lower than those in the same period in 1956. However, these imports will increase during the first quarter 1958 (Chart 36).

Prices - Prices will not rise but might have a tendency to decline slightly.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

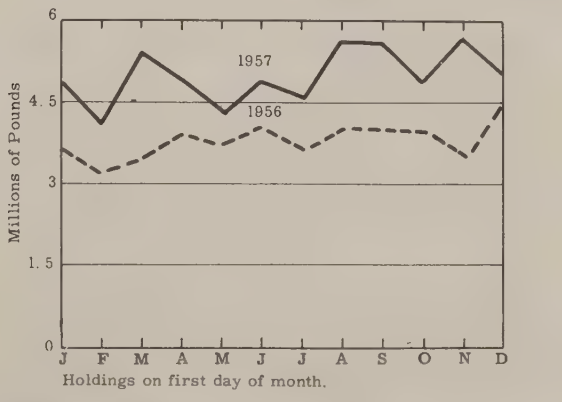
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....5,139,000 Lbs.

1956.....4,500,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters December 1 were up approximately 14 percent from those of a year earlier (Chart 37).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

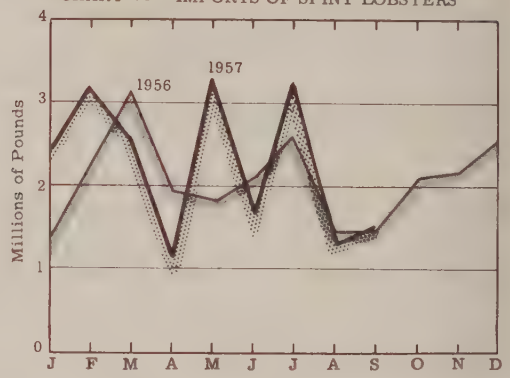
Imports

January - September

1957.....20,536,000 Lbs.

1956.....18,406,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports - Through September of 1957 imports of spiny lobsters exceeded by almost 12 percent those of the same period in 1956. These imports will continue heavy through the first three months of 1958. Domestic production is negligible (Chart 38).

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Strong Supplies - Light Demand - Exceeds Supply

Production of oysters will continue high during the first quarter of 1958 for some areas along the Atlantic Coast. In other areas, however, hurricanes and other hazards have reduced the annual harvest of oysters by a substantial amount.

Prices will continue high but possibly some consumer resistance will be encountered.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand-Moderate

Pack - In the Gulf area oyster canning will begin full scale operations during the first quarter of 1958. However, indications are that production will be considerably below that of last year. According to reports, oysters are less dense on the reefs than last year.

Prices should remain firm at present level.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

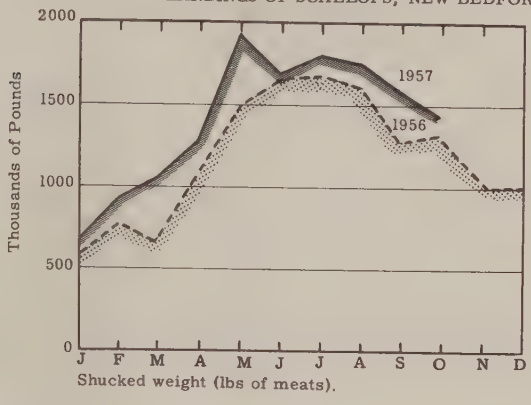
New Bedford Landings

January - October

1957.....14,189,000 Lbs.

1956.....12,565,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs of meats).

Landings of sea scallops at New Bedford through October of 1957 were 13 percent higher than those during the same period a year earlier. Sea scallop production will be at the seasonal lowest level during the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 39).

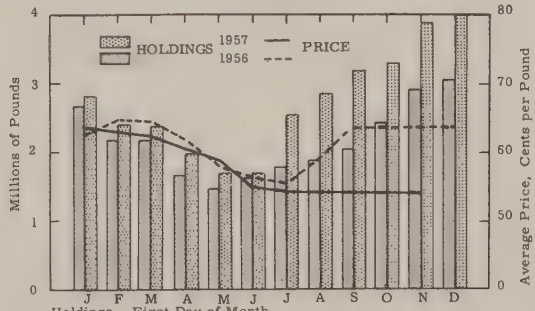
Cold-Storage Holdings

December 1

1957.....4,054,000 Lbs.

1956.....3,093,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb. carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on December 1 were about 31 percent greater than those on the same date in 1956 (Chart 40).

Wholesale prices are expected to remain steady, after having leveled off during the early part of the fourth quarter (Chart 40).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Strong Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings

January - November

(Headless)

	Gulf of Mexico
1957	86,802,000 Lbs.
1956	99,568,000 Lbs.

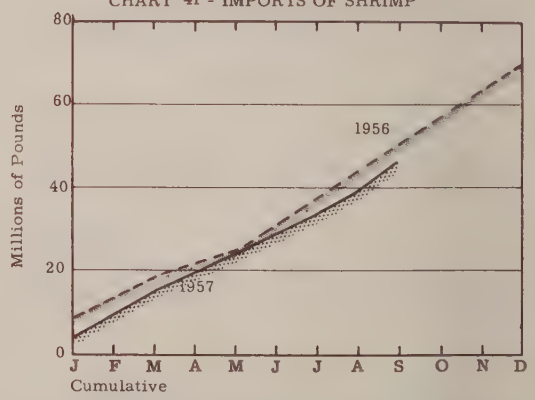
Landings - During the first eleven months of 1957 total shrimp landings in the Gulf Coastal Area were approximately 13 percent below those during a similar period in 1956. Texas accounted for slightly more than 50 percent of these total landings. First quarter production is seasonally the lowest.

Imports

January - September

1957	46,841,000 Lbs.
1956	49,545,000 Lbs.

CHART 41 - IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports - Imports of shrimp through September of 1957 were almost 6 percent less than those throughout the same period in 1956. During the first quarter of 1958, imports should continue strong (Chart 41).

Cold-Storage Holdings

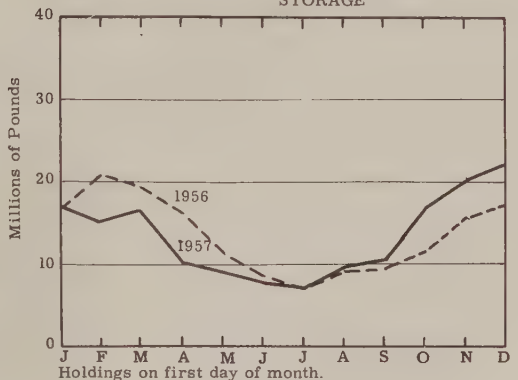
December 1

(Raw Headless)

1957..... 22,005,000 Lbs.

1956..... 16,713,000 Lbs.

CHART 42- RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

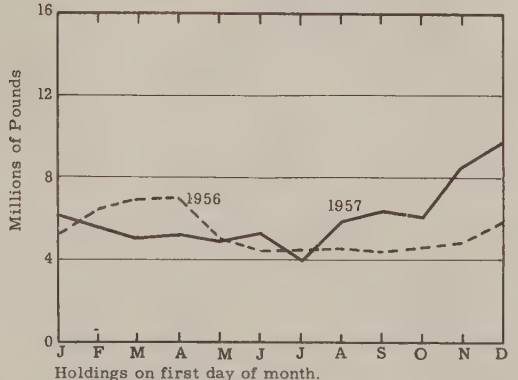
December 1

(All Other)

1957..... 9,685,000 Lbs.

1956..... 5,847,000 Lbs.

CHART 43 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE

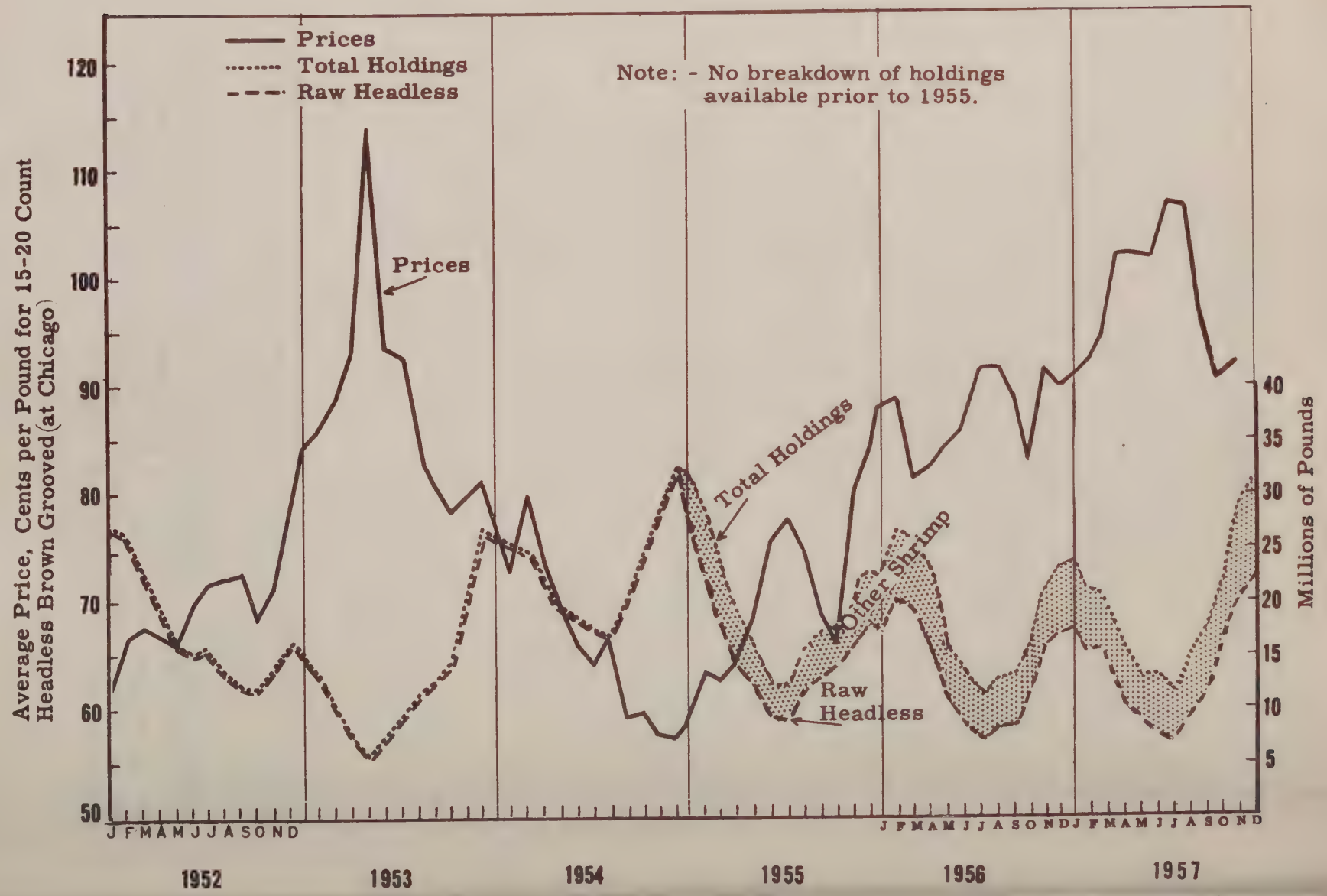


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on December 1 were approximately 32 percent higher than those on the same date in 1956. Holdings of all other shrimp, including breaded, were up 66 percent (Charts 42 and 43).

Wholesale prices at Chicago for headless, 15-20 count brown during November of 1957 were the same as those during November of 1956. Average prices, which began to drop in the beginning of the fourth quarter of 1957, started to rise in November, and will continue to do so throughout the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 44).

CHART 44 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

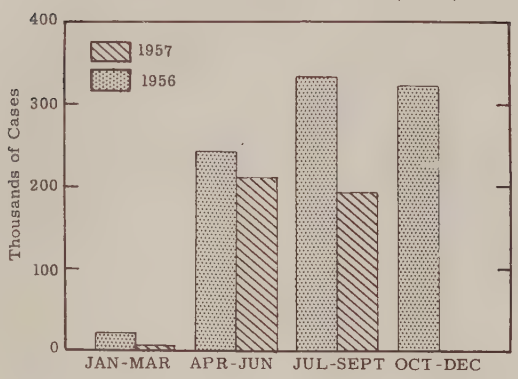
Pack

January - November

1957.....493,994 Std. Cases

1956.....857,608 Std. Cases

CHART 45 - CANNED SHRIMP PACK (GULF)



Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States throughout November of 1957 was 42 percent below that during a similar period in 1956. The first quarter is seasonally slow, with respect to canning operations, and therefore this situation will exist until the beginning of the second quarter (Chart 45).

Prices, which are high, will probably increase slightly during the first quarter of 1958.

Fresh-water Fish

Cold-Storage Holdings

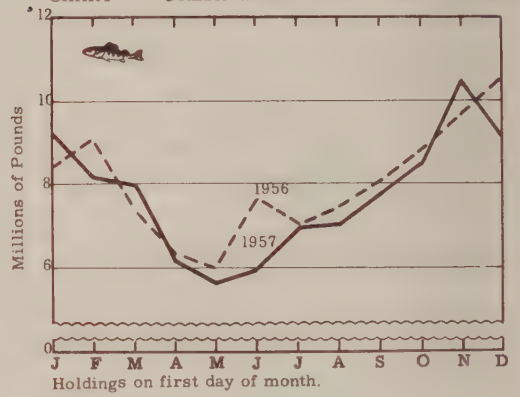
December 1

(United States)

1957..... 9,197,000 Lbs.

1956.....10,535,000 Lbs.

CHART 46 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

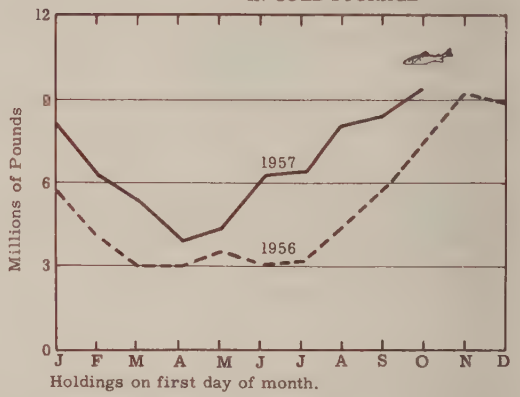
October 1

(Canada)

1957..... 9,385,000 Lbs.

1956..... 7,882,000 Lbs.

CHART 47 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on December 1 were down about 13 percent from a year earlier. Holdings in Canada on October 1, 1957, were 19 percent higher than those on a similar date in 1956 (Charts 46 and 47).

Fish Imports

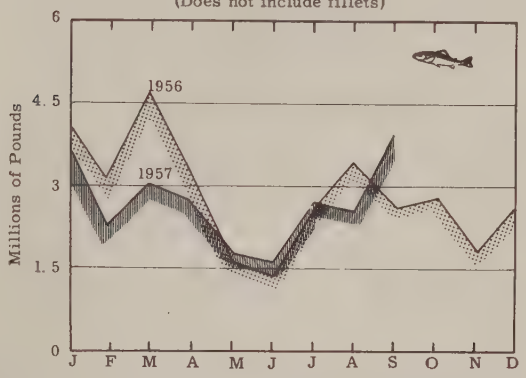
(Canada)

January - September

1957.....24,755,000 Lbs.

1956.....27,172,000 Lbs.

CHART 48 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH (CANADA)
(Does not include fillets)



Fillet Imports

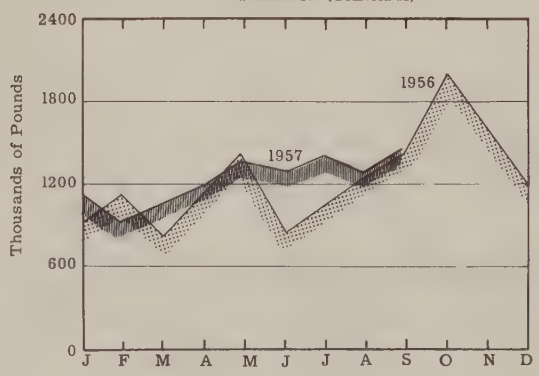
(Canada)

January - September

1957.....11,343,000 Lbs.

1956.....10,283,000 Lbs.

CHART 49- IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH FILLETS (CANADA)



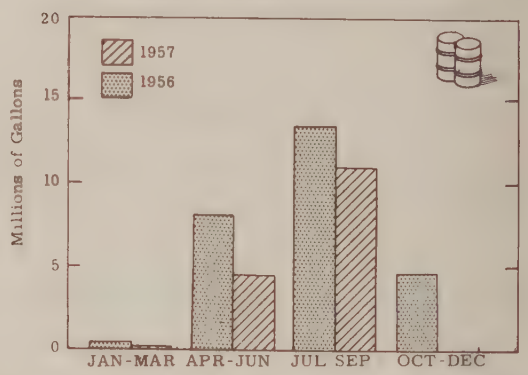
Imports - Fresh-water fish imports from Canada through September 1957 were 9 percent less than those a year earlier. Imports of fresh-water fish fillets through the same period were up about approximately 10 percent in 1957 over those during the same period in 1956. Production of all lake species is practically negligible during the first quarter, and the demand for fresh-water fish will be met largely by imports (Charts 48 and 49).

Prices should remain steady throughout the first three months of 1958.

FISH OIL

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

CHART 50 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production

January - October

1957.....18,757,000 Gal.

1956.....23,788,000 Gal.

Production of fish oils through October of 1957 was down approximately 21 percent from the same period a year earlier. Seasonally, production is extremely light during the first quarter (Chart 50).

Exports, January - September

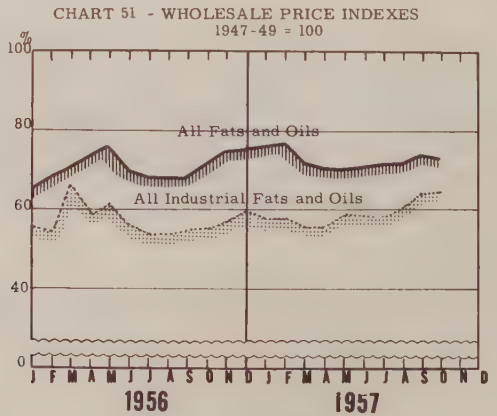
1957.....104,161,000 Lbs.

1956.....114,108,000 Lbs.

Exports of fish oil through the first nine months of 1957 were 9 percent lower than those during the same period in 1956. Export demand will continue moderate.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils in October was 72.9, a rise of 0.2 of a point from October 1956. The index for all industrial fats and oils was at a very high 64.6 (Chart 51).

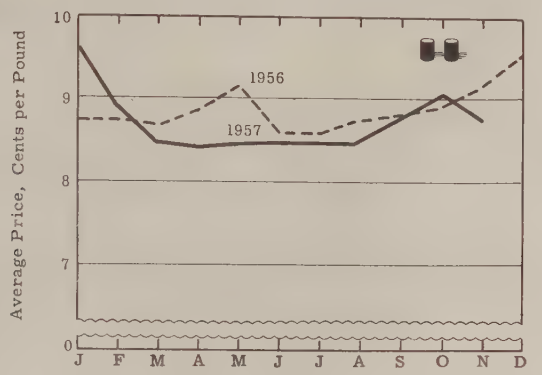
CHART 51 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
1947-49 = 100



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Price of menhaden oil, after going to 9.05 cents per pound in October, dropped to 8.75 cents in November. Price should strengthen and become firm during the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 52).

CHART 52 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

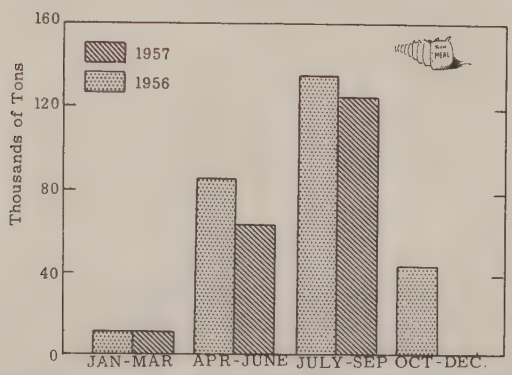
Production

January - October

1957.....224,564 Tons

1956.....249,694 Tons

CHART 53 - FISH MEAL PRODUCTION



Production of fish meal through October of 1957 was 10 percent less than that during the same period in 1956. The use of fish meal by the feed manufacturing industry has been sharply curtailed. The menhaden catch, which is the principal source of fish meal, was about 1.6 billion pounds through the first ten months of 1957. Fish meal production will be very light during the first quarter of 1958 (Chart 53).

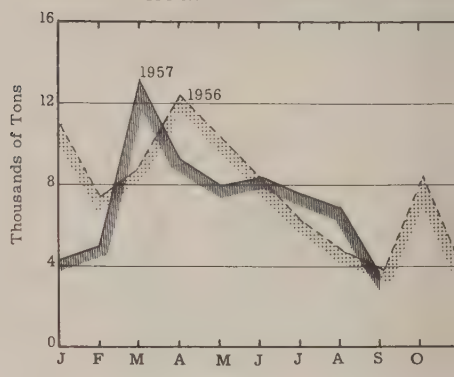
Imports

January - September

1957..... 66,148 Tons

1956..... 74,891 Tons

CHART 54 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEA



Imports of fish meal during the first nine months of 1957 were down percent from those during the same period in 1956. Import offerin will be steady during the first three months of 1958 (Chart 54).

CHART 55 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX
1947-49-100

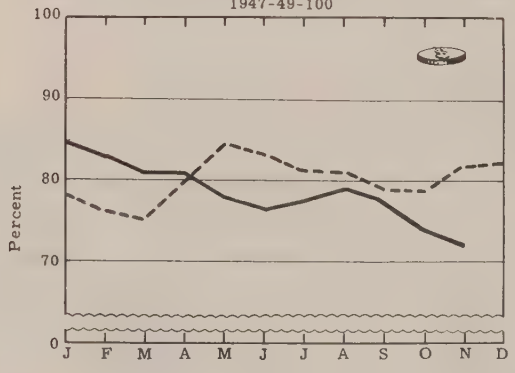
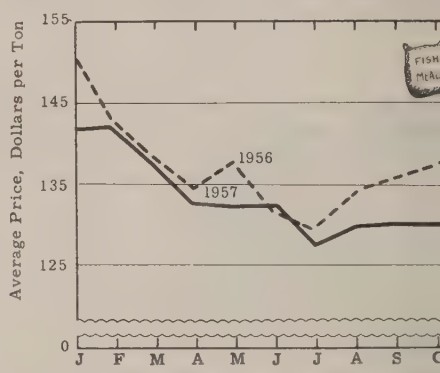


CHART 56 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF MENHAD



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern p

Wholesale feedstuff price index for November was down 9.7 points from a year earlier, and 1.8 points from the preceeding month. T November index of 72.1 (1947 - 49 = 100) was the lowest of any pr month in 1957 (Chart 55).

Wholesale prices for menhaden meal, after striking the low for 19 during July, had begun to level off at a slightly higher figure durin last quarter. First quarter 1958 prices will be low even with shar reduction in production (Chart 56).

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinion of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 25, 27, 29, 36, 38, 41, 48, 49, 54, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 51, 55, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 18, 28, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 47, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refers to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

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Some of the publications consulted in preparing this report are listed below. Publications of the Fish and Wildlife Service are not included.

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- Consumer Credit
- Department Store Sales
- National Summary of Business Conditions

U. S. Department of Agriculture:
- Agricultural Outlook Digest
- Agricultural Situation
- Cold Storage Report
- Dairy Situation
- Demand and Price Situation
- Fats and Oils Situation
- Feed Market Summary
- Foreign Agriculture Circular
- Foreign Crops and Markets
- Livestock and Meat Situation
- Marketing and Transportation Situation
- National Food Situation
- Poultry and Egg Situation
- Weekly Feed Market Review

Joint Committee on the Economic Report
- Economic Indicators

U. S. Department of Commerce:
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- Facts for Industry, Fats and Oils
- Foreign Commerce Weekly
- Industry Survey
- Monthly Retail Trade Report
- Monthly Wholesale Trade Report
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- U. S. Imports of Merchandise for Consumption

U. S. Department of Labor:
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- Retail Food Prices by Cities
- Wholesale Price Indexes

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